GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1759
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005
OIL AND NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION IN NORTH EASTERN REGION
Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any oil and natural gas exploration is taking place in North-East region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some foreign companies particularly a French Company has expressed its willingness to explore oil and gas reserves in the North-East particularly in the Brahmaputra Basin; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC), Oil India Ltd.(OIL) and Private/Joint Venture companies are carrying out exploration work in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. As on 1.4.2005, ONGC have carried out 36,307 Ground Line Kilometres(GLK) of 2-D seismic, 2,389 Square Kilometres of 3-D seismic and drilled 739 exploratory wells in the North-East region. OIL have carried out 21,419 GLK of 2-D seismic, 2,521 Square Kilometres of 3-D seismic and drilled 312 exploratory wells in the North-East region. In addition, Private/Joint Venture companies have carried out 598 GLK of 2-D seismic and drilled one exploratory well in the North-East region.

With these exploratory efforts, ONGC, OIL and Private/Joint venture companies have established 344 MMT of oil plus oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG) in the North-East region.

(c) & (d): Four foreign companies, namely, Tullow Oil India Operations Ltd., Premier Oil North East(B.V.), Canoro Resources Ltd. and Geo-Petrol International are working in the North-East region. Geo-petrol is of French origin and has 25% participating interest in one of the medium size producing field namely, Kharsang.

In the fifth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy(NELP), six foreign companies namely, Canoro Resources Ltd., Canada; Geo-petrol International Inc., Rue Du Goblan, Monaco; Oilex, Australia, Providence Resources, U.K; Suntera Resources, Russia; Zarkos Holdings Ltd., Cyprus have bid in joint venture with Indian companies for 2 exploration blocks falling in the State of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.